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By Mail.

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PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

MAINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY,

ON THE OCCASION OF

A COMPLIMENTARY DINNER

TO

JAMES WARE BRADBURY, LL. D.
PRESIDENT OF THE SOCIETY,

ON HIS EIGHTY-FIFTH BIRTHDAY,

JUNE 10, 1887.

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By mail

ANNIVERSARY DINNER

TO

HON. JAMES WARE BRADBURY, LL. D.

AT a meeting of the Standing Committee of the Maine Historical Society, held in Portland, March 10, 1887, on motion of Hon. William Goold, of Windham, it was voted that meetings of the Society be held on the tenth day of June next, and as that day is the eighty-fifth anniversary of the birth of the honored President of the Society, Hon. James Ware Bradbury, LL. D., of Augusta, it was also voted that the Society observe the day in some especial manner. Messrs. Henry L. Chapman, James P. Baxter, John Marshall Brown, Lewis Pierce, and Hubbard W. Bryant, were appointed a committee to confer with Mr. Bradbury and make suitable arrangements.

The following letter was addressed to him:—

PORLTAND, MAINE, April 11, 1887.

HON. JAMES W. BRADBURY, *President of the Maine Historical Society, Augusta, Me.*

DEAR SIR,—In behalf of the Standing Committee and the membership of the Historical Society, we have the honor to tender to you a complimentary dinner on the occasion of the approaching meeting of the Society (June

10th), and to ask your acceptance of the same. We regard it as fortunate that the meeting of the Society could be fixed upon a day which is also the anniversary of your birth, since it is desired to make the occasion a testimonial of personal respect as well as a recognition of your faithful and valuable services as President of the Society.

Trusting that you will, not unwillingly, accede to the desire of ourselves and of those whom we represent, we have the honor to be,

With high esteem, very truly yours,

HENRY L. CHAPMAN,
JAMES P. BAXTER,
JOHN MARSHALL BROWN,
LEWIS PIERCE,
H. W. BRYANT,

Committee.

It was replied to as follows:—

AUGUSTA, April 13, 1887.

GENTLEMEN,— I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 11th instant, inviting me to a complimentary dinner, at the next meeting of our Society on the 10th of June.

The invitation comes from gentlemen with whom I have been so long and so intimately associated in the prosecution of a patriotic work, and who are esteemed by me so highly, it would be puerile weakness in me to pretend to be insensible to such a testimonial of regard. While the environments of age incline me to withdraw from scenes where I cannot be useful, or contribute to the enjoyment of the occasion, I yet feel that I ought not to decline an invitation so kindly conceived and so gracefully tendered.

Most respectfully yours,
JAMES W. BRADBURY.

Arrangements for the complimentary banquet were made by the committee, and invitations were extended to the members of the Society to participate in the same. The presidents of the several Historical Societies of New England, and the surviving college classmates of Mr. Bradbury, were invited to become the guests of the Society on the occasion.

On the evening of the 10th of June, at six o'clock, the members of the Society and their guests assembled in the parlors of the Falmouth Hotel. Prominent among them was the special guest of the occasion, Hon. James W. Bradbury, President of the Society, whose birthday the gentlemen present had assembled to honor. With his bright clear eye and erect figure, he belied his eighty-five years, whose almost only sign was betokened by his long snow-white hair. Among the other guests who attracted great attention was the revered Ex Vice-President of the United States, Hon. Hannibal Hamlin, who, at the age of seventy-eight, appeared younger than many men of sixty. It is a rare circumstance that two men who have attained such distinction as Mr. Bradbury and Mr. Hamlin can be found both residents of the same State, the one representing its leading Historical Society by the highest office in its gift, and the other that of the leading Historical Society of the eastern part of the Commonwealth. They served together as Senators in the United States Senate nearly forty years ago.

James Ware Bradbury was born June 10th, 1802, at Parsonsfield, York County, Maine, where his father, Dr. James Bradbury, was a physician of eminence. He graduated at Bowdoin College in the class of 1825, that included Longfellow, Hawthorne, and J. S. C. Abbott, among its members. He taught the Hallowell Academy for a year, and then studied law with Mr., afterwards Judge, Shepley, and with Rufus McIntyre. In 1830, Mr. Bradbury settled in Augusta, where he devoted himself to his profession. He edited the "Maine Patriot" for one year, and was also County Attorney. In 1844, first as a nominating delegate at Baltimore, and afterwards as President of the Maine Electoral College, he assisted in making Mr. Polk President of the United States. In 1846 he was elected a United States Senator. He had hardly taken his seat in 1847 when he was called on by the death of his colleague, Senator Fairfield, to pronounce the customary eulogy. During his entire connection with the Senate he held a place on the committee on the judiciary, and was chairman of the committee on printing. He was chairman of the committee on the French spoliation claims and made an elaborate speech on the bill in favor of the claimants, which passed the Senate by a large majority. He declined a reëlection before the expiration of his term of office. He was an overseer and is now a trustee of Bowdoin College. On the death of Prof. Cleaveland he was chosen Corresponding Secretary of the Maine Historical

Society, and on the death of Judge Bourne, its President.

After a half hour passed in social intercourse and the extension of congratulations to the venerable President, the company repaired to the small dining-room for dinner. The cozy apartment seemed all the brighter and more cheerful in its new and rich furnishings, its flowering plants that bedecked the windows, and were artistically grouped about the apartment, the tables adorned with large bouquets of rare flowers, and cut flowers trailing in odd designs over the snowy napery, while at each of the plates was placed a choice *boutonniere*. A superb basket of roses and ferns from Mrs. George T. Davis, and an elegant bouquet from Mrs. J. B. Brown, were placed in front of Mr. Bradbury. The gentlemen present, as will be seen by the names, formed a representative assemblage in the men of letters of Maine. At the head of the table sat Prof. Henry L. Chapman, of Bowdoin College, president of the occasion. At his right was seated President Bradbury. The guests were as follows: —

Rev. Dr. H. S. Burrage,	James P. Baxter,
Dr. W. B. Lapham,	Hon. Cyrus Woodman,
Hon. Sidney Perham,	Judge John A. Waterman,
Henry Deering,	Gen. John Marshall Brown,
Lewis Pierce,	Edward H. Elwell,
Stephen Berry,	Hon. Marshall Cram,
Rev. Dr. Asa Dalton,	Lemuel H. Cobb,
Hon. William Goold,	Hon. Charles F. Libby,

Hon. T. H. Haskell,	Hon. E. P. Burnham,
Philip Henry Brown,	Oscar Holway,
Rev. Dr. John O. Fiske,	Chief Justice J. A. Peters,
H. W. Richardson,	Hon. J. W. Symonds,
Edward Johnson,	Hon. Lewis Barker,
Hon. S. F. Humphrey,	George F. Talbot,
Hon. Joseph Williamson,	Dr. H. C. Levensaler,
Abner C. Goodell, Jr.,	Ex-Gov. Selden Connor,
Hon. Hannibal Hamlin,	Hon. Nathan Cleaves,
Hon. J. W. Bradbury,	John M. Adams,
Prof. H. L. Chapman,	H. W. Bryant.
Hon. Charles Deane,	

The *menu* of the dinner was a two-page card, and bore on the obverse side, —

MAINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

Complimentary Dinner to

Hon. JAMES WARE BRADBURY, LL. D.,
On the 85th Anniversary of his Birthday,
1802 — June 10 — 1887.
Falmouth Hotel, Portland,
6 P. M.

On the second page was the *menu* proper, which, while not elaborate in number of dishes, embraced many delicacies, specially imported for the occasion, perfectly cooked. The service was such as has become a marked feature of this house. The following was the *menu* : —

Little Neck Clams.
Clear Green Turtle Soup.
Boiled Penobscot Salmon — Egg Sauce.
Small Potatoes. Asparagus — Cream Sauce.
Roast Spring Lamb — Mint Sauce.
Butter Beans. Green Peas.
Baked Mashed Potatoes.

Tenderloin of Beef, larded — Truffle Sauce.
Sweet Bread with French Peas.
Banana Fritters — Venetian Sauce.
Champagne Punch.
Broiled Spring Chicken.
Lettuce Salad.
Fancy Assorted Cake.
Neapolitan Ice Cream. Fruit. Coffee.

Grace was said by the Rev. Dr Dalton of Portland. After the banquet had been duly enjoyed, Professor Chapman called the assembly to order, and introduced the guest of the evening.

PROFESSOR CHAPMAN'S REMARKS.

We have reached the point when we may say with the genial Sir Hugh Evans in "The Merry Wives," "I will make an end of my dinner; there's pippins and cheese to come." It will be my pleasant duty to offer you presently the pippins and cheese; but in the mean time you will indulge me in a word or two concerning the motive of our gathering. Under ordinary circumstances, and with almost any other association of gentlemen, it might, perhaps, be enough to say that a dinner is its own justification, and that, like virtue, it is its own reward. We are probably in a frame of mind just now to admit the element of truth in such a plea. But it is hardly adequate to this occasion. There is a certain novelty about the event in which we are engaged which allows, even if it does not demand, a word of comment. During its long and honorable career hitherto, the Historical Society, I believe, has never before de-

liberately sat down to what may be called an official or corporate dinner. Its individual members have appropriated such nourishment, and even such delicacies, as came in their way, with proper diligence and thankfulness, it may be presumed, but without any particular thought of their relation to this venerable body. Even when chance has thrown us together in the informal association of a basket picnic, we have still eaten as units and not as fractions, and each man's basket has been regarded as his magazine, if not his castle. In a certain limited sense, therefore, which does not in the least discredit the conclusions of the ancient preacher, we have to-day, in this festive gathering, something new under the sun. And yet, with all its apparent novelty, it is doubtless a consistent and logical extension of what has always been regarded as the legitimate work of the society.

You all know with what pleasure we have, on several occasions, taken advantage of our field-days to visit those interesting remains of primitive life known as shell-heaps, scattered up and down our State. We have stood around them with faces that wore a becoming expression of inquiry and profound wisdom. We have prodded them with our canes; we have dug into them with our spades; we have, so to speak, turned them over in our minds; we have estimated the amount of savage and sensuous gratification which they represent; we have speculated upon the conditions

under which they grew to such notable dimensions. And now, at last, we have endeavored, under the greatly changed conditions of our modern civilization, to reproduce that feature of aboriginal life, and to construct a sort of shell-heap of our own. Of course there will be wide differences between the pattern and the copy. A greater variety, for instance, tempts our appetites than was necessary to satisfy the simpler tastes of our predecessors. We cannot expect, under existing sanitary regulations, to leave such a material monument of our achievements at the feast as they have left. But these differences are only accidental, and in spite of them we can see that the same social impulse brought them together at their appointed banquets which has brought us together around these tables. And what if it were true that they gathered in friendly council, and on the sunny shores of inlet, or headland, or island, spread their ample feasts, in honor of their revered and beloved sachems. In this, at least, we can strike hands with them across all the barriers of race and time, and feel the touch of Nature that makes us kin. For we are here to-day in grateful recognition of the debt we owe to the fidelity and wisdom of one who has been for many years our own sachem — our esteemed and honored President. We all know, gentlemen, his unselfish devotion to the welfare of the Society; his wise and watchful care over its varied interests; the kindly courtesy of his official and

personal relations with us. It is a great pleasure to us to give some outward expression to the honor which our hearts have all along yielded to him. And in order to emphasize the feeling that prompted this gathering we have been glad to invite and to welcome here the representatives of sister societies to unite with us in this tribute of esteem. We may thus confirm, by living contact and fellowship, the sympathies that run along the obscure lines of antiquarian research, and bind us together in the ties of common or similar pursuits.

Nor do we forget that the day is one that permits us to add to this token and assurance of our associated regard the kindly congratulations and good wishes which belong to a personal anniversary, an anniversary, it may be said, that recurs with startling frequency in all our lives. Whatever that was cherished and valuable the passing years may have taken away from our revered President, who to-day reaches another mile-stone on his journey, they have not taken away from him the continued power and privilege of serving his fellow-men in many noble ways. They cannot take away from him the record of that for which we honor him — a life distinguished by important duties worthily performed, by high trusts faithfully discharged, by great privileges blamelessly enjoyed. And, on the other hand, they have brought to him in their swift passage, —

“That which should accompany old age,
As honor, love, obedience, troops of friends.”

Among these troops of friends are we who offer you, sir, to-day, our heartiest congratulations, and the assurances of our most profound regard.

And not to detain you longer, gentlemen, from the pleasure that awaits you, allow me to present to you our chief guest, the honored President of the Society.

Upon rising to reply Mr. Bradbury was greeted with prolonged applause.

MR. BRADBURY'S REMARKS.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen :—

I feel embarrassed by your kind and flattering civilities, and am unable to make a suitable response. The approbation of valued friends, especially those with whom we have been long associated, is among the richest rewards that life can afford. It touches the heart too deeply for words to express. I cannot find language to convey to you my appreciation of your kindness. It comes from a society of which I regard it an honor to be a member.

Your commendation of my services is measured by your kindness more than by any merit of mine. You have generously taken the will for the deed.

We, gentlemen, have been engaged in a common cause, in which many of you have done much. It is a patriotic, unselfish work, in which the rest of the community have like interests with ourselves. We have a pride for our State and desire that she shall have her proper place in

history, and as a society we have labored to collect and preserve the materials from which that history may be written. We cannot forget that after the lapse of a little time nothing is known of states and nations save what history preserves. We know not how many kingdoms have risen and flourished and passed away since the earth has been the residence of man, and left no trace of their existence. While some account of the Jews has been preserved, how much is now known of their contemporaries in Asia, in Europe, in Africa, in America ?

It is a duty we owe to our State, and it is a like duty of every citizen, so far as it may be in our power, to see that the elements of her history shall be secured. It is a history full of interest. Our coast was seen by the Northmen in 990. The earliest explorations of the northern part of the continent were along our shores. Weymouth entered and examined our rivers in 1605. The earliest English attempt to make a permanent settlement, under a charter, north of the Potomac, was within our borders. In the long-continued struggle between England and France for the possession of the continent, our settlers acted an important part. They stood as a bulwark for the defense of the other English colonies, and were the first object of attack in the numerous wars waged by the French and their Indian allies. The result of this momentous conflict was for a long time in doubt. The French had extended their posses-

sions along the St. Lawrence to Quebec and Montreal; and on the Atlantic coast they had pressed on from Louisburg and Fort Royal to Mount Desert and Castine.

The issue was not decided until the capture of Quebec, and the great victory achieved by Wolfe over the French in 1759.

What far-reaching consequences depended on the result! Had France triumphed and colonized the Northern Atlantic States, carrying there her religious and political institutions, what to-day would have been the condition of the country now embraced in the Union? What the influence of such result upon Christianity and constitutional government throughout the world?

In the prosecution of our work to obtain whatever there is that will throw light upon the struggles and character of the early pioneers, and the advance of society to its present conditions, substituting civilization for barbarism, and the comfortable homes of an intelligent Christian community for the rude huts of the red men, as well as upon the discovery and explorations of this part of the continent, our Society has not been idle.

It has published nine volumes of Collections of the first series, and three volumes of Documentary History of the second series. For some time after its organization it lacked the means to make publications. To relieve this want the State, in 1849, generously granted half a township, which was sold for \$6,000. Up to this time, only two vol-

umes had been published. Five volumes had been added up to 1874, and since that time five more have been published, making in all twelve volumes, nine of the first series and three of the second.

Of the character and contents of these volumes I do not propose now to speak further than to say that they constitute a valuable contribution to the cause of history. Many of the papers are of great interest. A well-prepared synopsis would be convenient and useful. Whether it is not about time for a new history of the State to be written is a suggestion worthy of consideration.

The good influence of our Society is not confined to its own publications. It has stimulated and given vitality to historical research, the fruit of which is seen in the numerous local and town histories that have been published, embodying information invaluable to the historian. A list has been handed to me by Dr. Lapham. I will not detain you by reading it in detail. It embraces thirty-one town histories, published in volumes, some of them very large, and six histories in pamphlet. And to these can be added Williamson's "History of Maine," Sewall's "Ancient Dominion of Maine," Griffin's "History of the Maine Press," Allen's "History of Methodism," the Popham memorial volume, and the Longfellow volume.

Our Society is now in a good condition. It has a fair number of active working-members, several

of them especially such, ready and qualified to carry forward its work. Our membership might now perhaps be safely and profitably enlarged.

We are free from financial embarrassment, and the moderate yet respectable amount of funds in the treasury is well invested. By the adoption of the act passed by our last legislature, prohibiting the voluntary reduction of the income - paying funds below \$10,000, an adequate amount will be secured to provide for the regular publications of the Society, and secure its perpetuity.

I have now held the office of President for thirteen years, through your great kindness. When I became a member of the Society, in 1846, there had been added to the original corporators 179 members, including the 69 elected that year. Of this whole number only two remain. The fatal star must be prefixed to the names of all the rest. Our Heavenly Father has, in his great mercy, lengthened out my days, and you have kindly overlooked my deficiencies.

I think that you now need a more vigorous hand to press forward the work that is before you, and I feel it to be my duty to decline being a candidate for reëlection as your President. Tendering to you my thanks and grateful acknowledgments for your uniform and repeated acts of kindness, here I ought perhaps to stop. But I think there is something like an omission that ought not to remain, and I trust you will pardon me for detaining you for a few minutes longer. I

think we owe a debt of gratitude to the far-seeing men who were the founders of this Society. The forty-nine corporate members named in the act of incorporation approved February 5, 1822, were a remarkable body of men busily engaged in the stirring scenes of life. Their professions were: Law, 29; divinity, 7; medicine, 7; merchants, 4; other pursuits, 2. They are all gone. And it is a marvelous fact that the average of the age of the whole body exceeded seventy-two years! This shows that neither the climate of Maine nor intellectual activity are unfavorable to long life. It has been my good fortune to have been personally acquainted with a large number of these men. I recall the following: William Allen, President, Bowdoin College; Chief Justice Prentiss Mellen, Judge James Bridge, Hon. Peleg Sprague, Judge Daniel Cony, Rev. Dr. B. Tappan, Judge Albion K. Parris, Hon. Benjamin Vaughan, John Merrick, Esq., Judge William A. Hayes, Hon. R. H. Gardiner, Hon. John Holmes, Chief Justice Ether Shepley, Judge S. A. Kingsbury, Governor Samuel E. Smith, Judge Ashur Ware, Rev. Dr. Eliphalet Gillett, General William King, Hon. E. T. Warren, Chief Justice N. Weston, Dr. Ariel Mann, Hon. Reuel Williams, and I might add that I heard the Rev. Dr. Payson preach on one occasion. He was the most impressive pulpit orator that in my long life I have ever heard.

The other corporators, whom I know only by reputation, were of the same high character as

those I have named. Amongst these distinguished founders, the first place, if we regard station, influence, and abilities, must be assigned to General King. He was a man of great mental power. He had acquired and long exercised a controlling influence, and he was the first governor of the State. Yet I have not found upon the records of our Society any tribute to his memory.¹ In this respect he stands almost alone. I regard General King as one of the *great men* it has been my privilege to meet. As I recollect him, he was a man above the medium height, of expressive face and commanding appearance. I met him occasionally, and when he was over eighty years of age, I passed a part of the day very agreeably with him at his hospitable mansion. His mind was clear and vigorous. In conversation he was energetic, with that decisive yet courteous manner that showed he formed and had opinions of his own, and meant what he said. His was not a secondary mind. He was one of the three distinguished sons of Richard King, of Scarborough,—Rufus, William, and Cyrus.

Rufus King has a national reputation, as one of the great men of the day of Washington and Jefferson. Educated at Harvard, he was elected a representative from Massachusetts to the Congress under the Confederation, and a delegate to the Constitutional Convention at Philadelphia.

In 1784 he moved to New York, was one of the first two senators of that State to the Congress

¹ Excepting a notice of him in the Popham volume.

under the Constitution ; was appointed Minister to Great Britain by Washington ; was again elected to the Senate in 1813, and reëlected in 1820 ; and in 1825 President Adams appointed him Minister to the court of St. James. Returning after a year's service, he died in 1827.

In all these positions he was recognized as a man of commanding abilities.

Cyrus King, the younger half brother, was scarcely less marked for intellectual power. He was born in Scarborough, September 6, 1772 ; graduated at Columbia College, New York, with the highest honors ; was private secretary of Rufus when Minister to the court of St. James ; read law and opened an office at Saco ; soon rose to the highest rank in his profession ; is described as an advocate of unrivaled eloquence ; was twice elected to Congress ; and died in 1817, at the early age of forty-four.¹

General William King's father died when he was young, and he did not have the advantages of education that his brother Rufus enjoyed. He possessed largely the same mental characteristics, and was regarded by persons who knew them

¹ Richard King, the father of this remarkable family, moved from Watertown, Mass., to Scarborough, in 1745. He was an active business man, owned a large quantity of land, and dealt largely in lumber. His first wife was Isabel Bragdon, of York, by whom he had Rufus, born in 1755, and two daughters, Mary and Paulina. His wife died in 1759. He subsequently married Mary Black, of York. Their children were Richard, born in 1762 ; Isabel, in 1764 ; Dorcas, in 1766 ; William, in 1768 ; Betsey, in 1770 ; and Cyrus, in 1772. He died in Scarborough, March 27, 1775, aged fifty-seven.

both as fully his equal in natural intellectual power. Both engaged early in public life. They differed widely in their political principles, and took opposite sides in party politics. Rufus was a Federalist, and William a decided Democrat. He went to Topsham in 1797, when nineteen years of age, and worked in a sawmill. By his industry and energy he soon became a mill-owner and manufacturer of lumber. In 1800 he moved to Bath, where he continued to reside until his death. He built and owned vessels, and was engaged in trade with the West Indies, shipping lumber and bringing back cargoes of the products of the islands.

While at Topsham he was elected representative to the General Court in 1795, and again in 1796. After his removal to Bath he was elected representative from that town in 1804, 1805, and 1806. In 1807 he was elected senator from the district, and again in 1808, 1809, 1810, 1811, 1818, and 1819, six reëlections to that body. He was made major-general of the militia in 1811. During the trying times of the War of 1812-15 he gave a patriotic and strong support to the national administration of the government.

In the movements for separation from Massachusetts, and the establishment of an independent state, he took an active part, and was emphatically the leader of the petitioners in that long struggle before the consent of the old State could be obtained. He was a delegate to the conven-

tion to prepare a Constitution for the new State. That convention was composed of men selected from every part of the district for their learning, abilities, and fitness for the great work of preparing the foundations of a government for a state, and it was a marked honor to be chosen to preside over its deliberations. Such a mind as Governor King's could not fail to leave its impressions upon the work of the convention. And so admirably was that work accomplished that no state ever entered the Union with a Constitution better defining the authority of the several departments of the government, and declaring the rights possessed and reserved by the people, than that prepared for Maine and adopted by her citizens. Amongst other provisions, it carefully secured entire religious freedom, and provided for a grand system of education for the generations to come. Upon the organization of the government under the Constitution, he was elected governor almost unanimously. It was an important and almost formative period in the history of the State. An entire code of state laws was to be prepared and enacted, and the policy to be inaugurated in regard to the use of the public patronage and the constitution of the judiciary.

Governor King's administration was short, but long enough to show the character of the man. It was fair and elevated, and rose to the rank of statesmanship. While he had decided party principles, he was the governor of the State, and not of a

mere party. I find in the able speech of Senator Hamlin in 1878, upon the presentation of General King's statue to be placed in the National Statuary Hall, the following tribute to his character: "Not only did he display the rarest discrimination in selecting learned, able, and upright judges, but, although his own political views were always strong and sharply defined, he rose clear and high above party, and so constituted the courts from the eminent men of the two parties of that time, that the confidence and affection of the whole body of the people was secured for the tribunals appointed to administer justice and determine private rights. So should our judiciary systems ever be organized and maintained." A just and eloquent tribute, worthy of the orator, the subject, and the occasion. Before the term for which he had been elected had expired he resigned, and accepted the office of commissioner under the treaty with Spain for the purchase of Florida. It is said he was regarded as the leading man in that commission. In 1829 he was appointed by President Jackson collector of the port of Bath. Under the act for the removal of the capital to Augusta, he was appointed commissioner to superintend the erection of the State House. Always interested in the cause of education, he was a trustee of Bowdoin College, and aided in the erection of its granite chapel.

In his public career he showed the qualities of a statesmen. The two important and valuable changes of the common law were made while

he was a member of the Senate. They are known as the "Betterment Act," and the "Religious Freedom Act." It is a tradition that he was not only the strong supporter of these measures but the author of them.

The former became a law in 1808, at the adjourned session of 1807. I recently examined the journals of the Senate and House, and found them very meagre of information. They contain the names of those who voted for and against the bill, but do not show who took part in the debate. General King's name is recorded with the yeas on the passage of the bill.

There are strong reasons for believing that he was the originator as well as the potent supporter of this measure. He had more knowledge of the need of it than any other member. Many of his constituents were interested in its passage.

A large part of Maine was almost an unbroken forest. The land was held by distant companies under large grants, with the boundaries often unsettled. Pioneer settlers had gone into the edges of our forests, made clearings, and prepared homes to shelter their wives and children. They were now liable to be ousted by the proprietor, who had remained dormant while these improvements were being made, and stripped of the fruit of all their toil and exposure.

The act provides for an equitable settlement between the parties. A jury is to appraise the improvements, and the value the land would have

without them. The proprietor then has his choice, to receive the value of the land without the improvements, or to pay for the improvements and keep the land.

General King knew these settlers and the hardships they had endured, and it was not in his nature to stand indifferent, and not use the means within his power to secure equitable relief. He saw that a change in the law was demanded, and there can be little doubt who was the author of this equitable and beneficent measure.

The other important measure with which the name of General King is associated is entitled "An Act Respecting Public Worship and Religious Freedom." It was passed in June, 1811.

Prior to this time all of the parishes in the Commonwealth were territorial parishes, and a tax was imposed upon every citizen for the support of the minister of the parish. Whether the dissenter could conscientiously hear the minister or not, he must pay the tax for his support.

The act provides that every citizen may direct the appropriation of his tax for the support of the religious teacher of his choice. This left public worship to depend upon voluntary support. It was feared by many good men that it could not be maintained in that way, and that the attempt would result in its abandonment. In the House of Representatives the first vote was against the passage of the bill. This vote was reconsidered, and the bill finally passed. Yeas, 204; nays, 169.

In the Senate the vote stood: yeas, 19; nays, 16.

The feeling with which the passage of this bill was resisted can hardly be realized now, when the fears that were entertained have proved groundless, and the beneficent effects are seen and admitted. The amount voluntarily contributed for the support of public worship dwarfs the meagre amount that taxation would give.

Thus was consummated a grand work of emancipation, and the establishment of entire religious freedom.

General King gave the bill his efficient support. He was in the best position to give him influence. He was a member of a Congregational church and parish that would lose income by its passage. He was a far-sighted statesman, governed by principle, and there can be no doubt but that the success of this important measure is due largely to his energy and power. Merchant, statesman, Christian, he performed well the duty man owes to the community, by so living and doing as to benefit his fellow-men, and leave the world better for having lived in it.

The State has recognized his worth, and conferred upon him the signal honor of selecting him from among all of her sons, and all who had lived within her borders, to be her historic representative, by placing his statue in marble in the National Statuary Hall in Washington, to stand side by side with the statues of the most illustrious men from every part of the Union. He died June 7, 1852, full of days crowned with honor.

Chief Justice Peters of Bangor was introduced as the next speaker. His remarks follow:—

HON. JOHN A. PETERS' REMARKS.

Mr. President and Gentlemen,— Two motives bring me here to-night. One is that I am thereby performing a duty to the Society. I feel an interest in the purposes and for the prosperity of the Society. This institution has a rôle to perform most interesting to ourselves, and most important to posterity. We owe a great obligation to those who are to come after us. We are in a better situation to send down knowledge to posterity than our predecessors were to communicate knowledge to us. We have, in this age of paper, more opportunity to collect and perpetuate the historical fragments that are floating about us. And it seems to me that a special service is to be performed by this Society, by writing up and filling in between the lines of general history, in informing the world of the little matters and incidents which stimulated society in former days, the circumstances and events which drifted into the eddies and undercurrents out from the general stream. One of the influences of this institution has been, and will continue to be, to induce men to hunt out and rescue from loss, papers of many sorts which are only within private personal possession. And whoever will take interest enough to rummage their old family bureaus and desks, or upset old letter-files, and bring to light any writ-

ten scraps which may be woven into the general texture of history, performs an important service for the public good.

Another sentiment impressed me as I sat an interested listener to the papers read before the Society this afternoon. I felt quite a glow of patriotism possessing me, in the reflection that the materials of history which we are engaged in gathering pertain to America, the greatest and best country in the world. I can appreciate the remark of Byron in a letter to Moore, "I would rather have a nod from an American than a snuff-box from an emperor." We are dealing with problems of history which may teach mankind that the world may survive without emperors,—but not without Americans. So much for one of the motives which interest me in this occasion.

Another motive is of a personal character. I am certainly pleased to be here to participate personally in the expressions of esteem to be tendered by the Society to its venerable and worthy President on this occasion. He has for a long time loved and befriended the Society in many ways, and the Society loves him in return. I hear myself speak of him as venerable, but it is because the printed announcement is before us that his years are to-day threescore and ten plus fifteen. He has this evening informed us, in an interesting sketch of the Society in its earlier days, that the average age attained by its founders was seventy-two years. I remember seeing it reckoned

that the average age of the signers of the Declaration of Independence was but sixty-five years. Therefore it may be that our President is of venerable years. But it does not seem so,—he does not *look* it. Victor Hugo describes old age as of two periods,—the old age of youth, and the youth of old age. If our President has passed from the first period, he has certainly not as yet been graduated from the second.

And in closing these brief remarks let me, as I believe, express the common wish of all of us, that many years more and abundant happiness and health may be allotted to him whom we meet to honor on this occasion, and that, when his sun of life shall go down, as sometime it must, it shall descend, not like a winter sun, quickly and coldly in the west, but rather like a summer sun, slowly, serenely, lingeringly declining, retaining fullness and brightness till the last, and sending back a reflection of its effulgence at the end.

The chairman said that there was present a representative of a sister society, whom it gave him great pleasure to introduce. He presented Dr. Charles Deane, of Cambridge, Vice-President of the Massachusetts Historical Society.

DR. DEANE'S REMARKS.

Mr. President,— I need not say that it gives me great pleasure to be present on this occasion, to join those who have met here to do honor to your

venerable and distinguished guest. But, sir, I must first proceed to deliver a message with which I am charged from a sister society in Boston, the Massachusetts Historical Society, which sends its best wishes and congratulations to the President of the Maine Society. At a stated meeting held yesterday, a letter was read from the former President of the Society, the Hon. Robert C. Winthrop, to Dr. Ellis, now President, in which he speaks of the occasion which has brought us together to-night. I will read what he says:—

I had not heard until your note reached me of the birthday celebration by the Maine Historical Society. I would gladly have joined in paying a tribute to the venerable President of that Society, the Hon. James W. Bradbury. I was with him in Congress for several years, and have a warm regard and respect for him. He called upon me in New York, as I was coming home, a few weeks ago, looking so young and fresh that when he spoke of being nearly eighty-five, I told him that there must be a mistake in his calendar. He is a worthy and excellent man, who, I hope, has many more years of usefulness and honor before him.

This letter, with the greetings which accompany it, I was charged to present to you to-night. And now, having performed that service, I wish to offer my personal congratulations to your President on this memorable occasion. I could not resist the opportunity of coming here in person to do it, for I have had the privilege of knowing him for many years. It seems to me as if I had always known

him, not only as a public man, who has rendered important service to the State, but for many years as a personal friend. There was always a tender tie, if I may be allowed to mention it, which closely bound him to my father's family. His early friendship for my brother, some years older than myself, who became his classmate and chum in college, but who died just before the graduation of the class of '25, seemed to bring him during all these years very near to me.

And now, sir, after having survived nearly every one of that class, justly called "the famous class of Bowdoin College," and having won a marked distinction in a long and honorable career as private citizen and public servant, he is here to-day, not to render to us an account of his stewardship, but to show that age "cannot wither" him, nor "custom stale" the infinite satisfaction derived from a consciousness of a well-spent life. In an old classic with which our friend is familiar, — Tully's discourse on "Old Age," — this eminent philosopher and statesman says that the best support of old age is a well-spent life preceding it; a life employed in the pursuit of knowledge, in honorable actions, and the practice of virtue; in which he who labors to improve himself from his youth, will in age reap the happiest fruits of them, not only because these never leave a man, not even in the extremest old age, but because a conscience bearing witness that our life is well spent, together with the remembrance of past

good actions, yields an unspeakable comfort to the soul.

These are good Christian sentiments, though proceeding from a heathen writer.

The late Josiah Quincy, for many years President of Harvard College, who lived to the age of ninety-two, accepted the philosophy of Cicero as to the efficacy of constant activity in keeping the mental powers in repair during old age, and certainly proved its truth by his own example.¹ He was an exception to the rule of the psalmist, that "the days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labor and sorrow": for he records in his diary that no years of his life had been more unqualifiedly joyful than those since his seventieth year.

I desire to congratulate you, sir, on the prosperous condition of the Maine Historical Society. What the public knows of the real vitality or efficiency of such a society they are apt to infer from its publications. I have not seen your last volume, but as to the volume published a few years ago as the third volume of "Documentary History," the Trelawny Papers, I cannot speak in too high terms of its value, or of the ability with which it is edited. It is worthy to take its place in the Documentary series, which was inaugurated by the Kohl volume, which was perhaps the most valuable publication on the subject of which it treats ever issued in America.

¹ *Life of Josiah Quincy*, by his son, Edmund Quincy, p. 487.

I have a familiar acquaintance with all your earlier volumes, and of the labors of your former President, Mr. Willis, whose name deserves to be emblazoned on the walls of your Society. You have lost Mr. Willis, but you have gained Mr. Baxter.

May I be permitted, sir, in closing, to refer here to a meeting of the Maine Historical Society which I was privileged to attend, several years ago, and of which I cherish pleasant memories. I think it was in 1870. It was a field-meeting, and was, of course, of a perambulatory character. Indeed, there was a series of meetings held in different places. We spent two days in Old York, the site of the ancient city of Gorgeana, a place full of historical associations, and were the fortunate guests of several of the citizens of the place, and the time was well improved by informal gatherings for historical disquisitions and discussions, as well as in drives and walks, and in social intercourse, for in some instances the members were accompanied by their wives. Here we listened to the eloquent and musical voice of Dr. Woods, always so charming and impressive, whether he spoke in public or in private. When shall we see his like again? We were also regaled with the more pronounced and forcible yet effective speeches of Mr. Poore, who was always so full of enthusiasm and information on his favorite themes; while the President of the Society, Judge Bourne, Dr. Ballard, Dr. Packard, Mr. Benson, and others im-

parted to us freely of their rich stores. Alas, sir! these names I have mentioned live only in our memories. I am glad to see at this table several gentlemen who were present on the occasion to which I have referred, and who also addressed us, — Mr. Bradbury, Dr. Fiske, Mr. Goold, and General Brown.

From Old York we drove to Kittery, where once lived the renowned Sir William Pepperell, and here we examined with great interest the several remarkable colonial houses for which the place is so celebrated, and here we enjoyed the hospitality of the late Rev. Daniel Austin.

Proceeding thence to Portsmouth, we were met and received at the Rockingham House by delegates from the New Hampshire Historical Society, including Governor Bell, their President; and there we held a meeting, and had speeches, and were addressed by the venerable Dr. Bouton, of Concord, and by others; and the affair was concluded by a grand symposium, shall I call it — I mean a dinner — at the house in which we were assembled. After which we all separated, some going west, and some going east.

A society with which the Maine Historical Society is closely related, said Professor Chapman, is the New England Historical and Genealogical Society, many of our members being also members of the latter society. I take pleasure in introducing its President, Mr. Abner C. Goodell, Jr.

PRESIDENT GOODELL'S REMARKS.

Mr. President and Gentlemen,— I think I may confidently appeal to the recording secretary—from whom I had the honor to receive your invitation to this festival—to confirm my assertion that a speech from me was not in the programme; at all events, I had no notice that such a thing was expected of me, and I did not come prepared with one.

If, then, I am asked why I came at all, I can only reply that, as the representative of a sister society whose motto is, or ought to be, —

“No pent-up Utica contracts our powers,
For the whole six New England States are ours,” —

I came to congratulate the members of the Historical Society of the youngest of these six States on this interesting event in the career of your venerable and beloved guest. And while I have the floor I may as well improve the opportunity by felicitating him and you on the circumstance that the incumbency of the presidential chair of an historical society seems promotive of longevity. For instance, besides the remarkable case uppermost in our minds this evening, there is the President of the Massachusetts Historical Society, whose junior lieutenant and representative has just spoken, and who gives equal promise of attaining to a vigorous old age. Then, too, there is the president emeritus of that society, Mr. Winthrop, still active in body and mind, who yet re-

ceives the homage of all men, as being in all respects venerable. As for myself, it becomes me to speak with modesty, and yet a regard for truth compels me to confess that my wife sometimes assures me that I am old enough to know more about what happened before the Revolution than about what has happened since.

Nor is the chief functionary of an historical society the only member who enjoys the cheering prospect of ripe old age. We have heard this evening, for instance, of the great average age which past members of this Society have attained. Let me add for your further solace that, according to an authentic proverb which I leave those here who are more familiar with its original wording to quote more correctly than I am able to at this moment, I have no hesitation in believing all the gentlemen at this table are at least nonagenarians: "Old age is not that which cometh of gray hairs, nor that standeth in length of years; but wisdom is the gray hairs unto men, and an unspotted life is old age."

In introducing Hon. Hannibal Hamlin, of Bangor, Professor Chapman said that the gentleman had occupied so many positions that he hardly knew in what capacity to introduce him, but would do so as the President of the Bangor Historical Society.

MR. HAMLIN'S REMARKS.

I did not come here this evening to make a speech, but I am very glad to be present, to become better acquainted with the members of the Society, and to thank them for making me an honorary member of their organization. I think I appreciate the great work of this Society, and the great future which is before it. Talleyrand said that all history is lies, but you are collecting material from which the writers of the future may record the truths of history.

I came here to-night, not to speak, but to testify by my presence my regard for your President. I think we have been longer acquainted than any two persons here. We have known each other for sixty years. We have not agreed in theological belief. Sometimes we have trodden the same political path, and sometimes we have not. But during sixty long years there has been no shade of enmity or ill-feeling between us.

Mr. Hamlin closed his remarks with a reference to, and an earnest commendation of, the valuable work of President Bradbury in connection with the Society, and an expression of the wish that many years might be yet before him.

Hon. Marshall Cram, of Brunswick, was introduced as the next speaker.

MR. CRAM'S REMARKS.

I can hardly imagine why I have been called upon, unless it be on account of my age. I suppose that, next to its honored President, I am the oldest resident member of the Maine Historical Society. It is, however, in age only that I approach that gentleman. In most other respects we are wide apart.

But I do not rise to make a speech, but simply to assign a reason for not making one. I see here around me younger men who are capable of occupying the time much more profitably than I could hope to do, and I do not propose to stand in their way.

I remember that, when Dr. Isaac Lincoln was about seventy-five years old, he was chosen as a member of the Executive Council. The members of the legislature from Cumberland County were very desirous that he should accept the position, and they sent a committee requesting him to do so. After hearing what the committee had to say, the doctor said: "No, gentlemen, I must be excused. If I were ten years older, probably I should accept; but," said he, "I know too much for that yet." Now, Mr. President, if I were ten years older, perhaps I might attempt to make a speech here to-night; but, as the doctor said, I know too much for that yet, and I trust I may be excused.

The chairman said that as a boy in Portland, he had regarded Hon. William Goold, of Windham, as an authority on all matters of history. Mr. Goold still fills that position, and, said Professor Chapman, I take great pleasure in introducing him to you.

MR. GOOLD'S REMARKS.

Old men have a fellow-feeling. King Lear says, "I do confess that I am old," and continues, "Age is unnecessary." Our honored President, now almost a score past the psalmist's limit of years, sets us a pattern of activity: he is living evidence of the truth of King Lear's assertion, that "age is unnecessary."

I first met President Bradbury at a field-day gathering of the society at York, in September, 1870. That day will be long remembered by those remaining, who participated in its pleasures in looking over the antiquities of the town. A locality of much interest was Judge Jonathan Sayward's house and home, with its full-stature portraits by Blackburn, and endless rich furnishings, many of which came from Louisburg at the time of its capture. Sayward commanded a transport in that expedition. The house had been kept in the best order by the descendants of the Judge, and nothing had been taken away since his time. A reminder of the disordered public mind at the time of the Stamp Act, is the unfinished portrait of the Judge's wife. The family tradition is that the artist left the country in a fright, and never returned to finish his work.

A spot of especial interest to me was the ancient graveyard, where rest many old colonists of note. Addison said that "a country fellow distinguishes himself as much in a churchyard as a citizen on the 'Change," but I could not see that the city people were less active in scraping the moss from the leaning stones than myself.

The next morning was fine, and a ride to Kittery was in order. The ever-attentive citizens of York were early at our quarters with their family carriages — more even than were needed. My carriage companion was our present distinguished guest, Dr. Deane, of Cambridge. I will not attempt to mention the great number of objects and points of historical interest which were visited in that ancient town. Their examination filled a red-letter day. Kittery was the first settlement in Maine which was endowed with town privileges. It was incorporated in 1647. It is also the only town whose soil has been pressed by the foot of Washington, as we have heard from Judge Williamson. We were shown the chair which he occupied at the Sparhawk House. After a historical meeting in a church, our party was taken across the river to Portsmouth by a navy-yard steamer. There we were met by a committee of the New Hampshire Historical Society, whose guests we were to be for a night and a day.

We were entertained at a public breakfast at the Rockingham House the next day by a large delegation of the New Hampshire Society. Although nearly twenty years have intervened since

that meeting, I recollect a proposition advanced during the discussion by our Mr. Bradbury. It was, that a movement be there inaugurated for a meeting of all the historical societies of New England. The proposition was seconded in a speech by Dr. Deane, and advocated by Dr. Bouton, of the New Hampshire Society. I then hoped to see all the New England savants of history in convention; but this proposition yet remains to be carried out. But to think of the men of talent, learning, and genial companionship of our society who have passed away since that time! Among the most active members were Judge Bourne, then president, John A. Poor, Dr. Packard, Dr. Ballard, Colonel Benson, R. H. Gardiner, B. C. Bailey, of Bath, Judge Barrows, Bishop Burgess, Dr. Champlin, E. Wilder Farley, Dr. Gilman, ex-Governor Washburn, President Woods, and others.

I have said that it was on the York and Kittery excursion that I first met our esteemed President. My respect for him has increased with our intercourse. I knew his father, a respected physician. He lies buried near the little country church where I usually attend. His tall monument looks in approvingly at the window near my seat. I never see this memorial to your father, Mr. President, but I think of yourself.

“Softly, oh softly, the years have swept by thee,
Touching thee lightly with tenderest care;
Sorrow and death they have often brought nigh thee,
Yet have they left thee but vigor to wear.
Growing old gracefully,
Gracefully fair.”

Professor Chapman next introduced the Rev. Dr. John O. Fiske, of Bath, with whom he said Mr. Bradbury had been associated on the board of trustees of Bowdoin College.

DR. FISKE'S REMARKS.

I feel myself quite incompetent to speak appropriately on this interesting occasion. To do this, demands a trained statesman, jurist, or man of business, familiar with the methods and abilities of our honored President, as they have been displayed in the varied employments and trying scenes of his long and active life. It requires his own skill, as it was so happily exerted in the graceful and elaborate memorial of his life-long friend, Justice Clifford, recently published in Vol. IX. of our Society's Collections.

I have been honored with Mr. Bradbury's friendship for forty years. For nearly thirty years we have sat together as trustees of Bowdoin College. I have seen something of the practical and unassuming wisdom of our friend, and of his self-sacrificing devotion to the college. If we wanted help from the legislature for the medical school or the college; if cranks and experimenters were to be kept at bay; if we have needed legal opinions upon important and vital matters, Mr. Bradbury has always been prepared to furnish the required aid.

You are all aware of Mr. Bradbury's services to this Society, his efficient aid in securing for it a substantial pecuniary foundation.

Talking recently with a prominent lawyer of our State about the success obtained by one of our legal magnates, I was much impressed by his firm conviction that success comes not only from natural ability and industry, but from character as well. People know they can trust the man whose character is above reproach, and such a man is our friend whose birthday we celebrate.

That admirable lady who as a wife and mother graced his home, it was also my privilege to know. "A charm from the skies seemed to hallow" everything there. I am very sure our honored friend will gladly confess that no tongue can tell the amount of invaluable assistance he received from that now sainted wife. In harmony with the benevolence of her life, as many of you know, at her death she made the Maine General Hospital an almoner of her bounty to the poor and diseased for all time to come.

I rejoice that under the great burden of all my infirmities I have been permitted to share in the tribute of respect and esteem which our Historical Society to-night pays to its distinguished President.

Hon. George F. Talbot was introduced as the next speaker.

HON. GEORGE F. TALBOT'S REMARKS.

Mr. President,— When your quaint and ingenious fancy found in this intellectual feast, in honor of the venerable President of this Society,

some resemblance to those savage orgies of our predecessors, the record of which is preserved in the extensive shell-heaps that line the coast of Maine, I could not help thinking, that, having designated me to contribute some mental viand to the rich and elaborate bill of fare, you foresaw that I would be likely to throw upon the historic heap nothing but an empty shell.

The festival surprises me, as did the allegorical marriage supper the foolish virgins, with my lamp ready to be lighted, but with no oil in my vessel with my lamp. Without the prudence and foresight that should characterize my years, I have exposed myself to the liability of a speech, without being provided, as I notice many of my *confrères* are, with a written preparation. But I feel sure that my listeners have congratulated themselves when they noticed that in response to your call I did *not* whip a manuscript out of my pocket and proceed to read it. For with my pen I can put but little check upon my prolixity, but trusting only to the inspiration of the occasion, I shall doubtless be able to bring what I propose to say within the limit of a reasonable patience.

I was very glad to be assigned some service in this public recognition of the eminent ability and official services of our retiring President for two reasons: I wish to do my own part in a testimonial due him from the Society he has so faithfully served — a Society in which my own leisure and my favorable situation have given me the op-

portunity to interest myself actively ; and I welcome the opportunity to express my respect and gratitude to the distinguished man, who is my friend, and had been the friend of my father. As long ago as 1830, when Portland was the seat of government, Mr. Bradbury and my father became intimate as fellow-members of the legislature ; and the friendship thus formed continued during all the rest of his life ; so that when an office was to be selected, in which I should complete my law studies, that of Mr. Bradbury, who was then in full practice, and who had recently taken his seat in Congress, was selected, and from that I was graduated into the legal profession.

It has been debated whether the maker or the writer of history stands highest in the estimation of men. I think it was Alexander, of whom our school-books somewhere told us, that asked in his youth which he had rather have been, Achilles or Homer, replied : " And which had you rather be : the victor in the Olympic games, or the herald that proclaims his name ? " Much that has been said hitherto in recognition of the valuable services and commanding abilities of our honored guest has had reference to his career as a scholar, as a lawyer, and as a co-laborer with us in the work of gathering and preserving the facts, the traditions, and the documents out of which the completed history of our State is to be created. I have not forgotten that our guest is a statesman not less than a scholar, and that his long service

as a legislator in the highest council of the nation has had no insignificant influence in making the history he has helped to tell.

True, there was some marked difference of opinion between himself and the political school to which, by force of conviction, he belonged, and those views I had come myself to adopt, as well as what may be called the general trend of public opinion upon the great national questions that have agitated the country. By natural order of temperament, by the impetuous radicalism of my opinions, I took early in life the progressive and radical side on these questions, while his training and character made him cautious and careful to preserve the solid blessings a constitution of compromises secured. But now the struggle which was inevitable between these two tendencies, beginning in an intense popular agitation and culminating in a fierce, bloody, and protracted civil war, is happily over, and an era of peace has opened in our country — a peace based not only upon the conquest and submission of those who made themselves our enemies, but upon their reconciliation and hearty acquiescence in the new order of things, it is hard to say what influences contributed most to the successful passage of our country through its great crisis and peril. We abolitionists had done and said what we could to reinforce the democratic sentiment that liberty was the inalienable birthright of every man of whatsoever race or color, and to insist that the

divine element of justice in all our legislation, and all our national policy, must be made paramount to expediency. Mr. Bradbury, like his associates, Mr. Cass and Mr. Woodbury in one party, and Mr. Everett and Webster in the other, had done and said what they could to deepen in the popular heart the attachment to the Union, and to appeal to that fidelity of performance of political duties, which we had assumed in adopting a common constitution.

And when the crisis came, that in our *airy* way we had declared never would come, and the *dissolution of the Union*, which with too much levity we had scouted as a mere political *bugaboo*, had been actually accomplished, and a terrible civil convulsion was upon us, then it was that that very Union sentiment we had rashly tampered with and weakened, and not our sentiment of justice and natural human rights that for months, if not whole years, held us together as a nation, and until schooled by the stern discipline of defeat, we began to discover the providential issues with which our great war was indissolubly bound up. For we well remember how in all that terrible summer of 1861 anti-slavery was at a discount, and abolitionists, like the *savans and the donkeys*, in Napoleon's campaign of the Pyramids, were *sent to the rear*; while Democrats and conservative men were importuned to take the nominations for political office, and to lead the soldiers in the field. We all remember how our neighbors who

volunteered and went to fields where they left their limbs or their lives, protested, they would fight *for the Union*, but *not for niggers*, and the most progressive party in the nation formally protested, in all its great representative conventions, that the war was not for the subjugation of the States, or the overthrow of its institutions, but for the maintenance of the Union and of the authority of the government.

For one I was not at all chagrined ; I was content to take for the time *the back seat*, assured that the war would *radicalize*, as it did, every man that put his neck and his heart into it. And when the reconstruction came of an order of things that had completely passed away, it is as plain to see that that beneficent reconstruction on the everlasting basis of justice and universal liberty has been accomplished not more by the thorough-going measures of settlement the victors insisted upon, than by the acquiescence and enormous concessions of the vanquished, and the absolute good faith with which they have kept the pledges upon which we consented to their restoration to full citizenship, with all the rights and immunities which full citizenship implied. No one school or party have any right to arrogate to themselves the exclusive glory of a restored Union, and a lasting government that has rid itself of its great internal corruption and danger, because it is a result to which all parties and all schools — the defeated as well as the successful soldiers on each side have contributed.

As modern England, with its free speech and free thought, and all its political power really exercised by a popularly elected Parliament, is a piece of composite work to which the Puritan Round Heads and Charles' Cavaliers, High and Low Church, laborer and peer, Whig and Tory have contributed; so the regenerate United States, based upon universal liberty and universal suffrage, but with its absolute democracy limited and defined by a paramount constitution, is the work of a great supervising power that has used as its agencies the federal and the democratic ideas, the Nationalist and the States'-rights man, those who stanchly held by the old Union, and those on both sides that have pledged their allegiance to the *new*.

Professor Chapman said that there were a few words more which he wished to say. The Society already owes a great deal to Mr. James P. Baxter, who now proposes to erect a magnificent building, in which the Society will have a home. The matter is now in the hands of a committee, who will report at the annual meeting at Brunswick.

The company then adjourned to the large parlors, where, after examining the plans of the proposed building, and spending a short time in social intercourse, the party dispersed.

The following are extracts from letters of regret received by the Secretary:—

From Professor Nathaniel Dunn, of New York city :—

“ I find it necessary to say that it would be impossible for me to be present, as my age prevents, being now in my eighty-eighth year. I’ve no doubt the occasion will be most enjoyable, and I trust that my old friend will have his life prolonged many years yet as a remnant of the class of which he is a distinguished member. Be so good as to present to him the affectionate regards and congratulations of his old classmates.”

From the Hon. Joseph H. Williams, of Augusta :—

“ While I beg to be excused from personal attendance on the occasion of the well-merited testimonial to our President, my health not permitting me to share in the proposed tribute to that gentleman, I very heartily desire that nothing may be wanting to the complete fulfillment of the grateful duty before you as indicated in your note.”

Cullen Sawtelle, Esq., of Englewood, N. J., a classmate of Mr. Bradbury, writes for himself and Rev. Dr. George B. Cheever :—

“ I regret extremely that circumstances beyond my control will deny me the pleasure to avail myself of your cordial invitation to meet with the Society upon the interesting occasion. Rev. Dr. Cheever, who resides in the same town with me, desires me to express to you also his sincere regrets that it will not be in his power to attend the meeting to do honor to our distinguished classmate.”

From Commodore Horatio Bridge, of Washington :—

“ I regret that it will not be in my power to accept

your courteous invitation. As his classmate and a former partner in the practice of law, I knew our friend Bradbury well, and I thought we were nearly of the same age, but he was always progressive, and had a way of getting ahead of his compatriots in law, in politics, and in wealth, and now he seems somehow to have gotten the advantage of me in age by nearly four years. But I can forgive him for this pushing onward since he has done so much for the Maine Historical Society, for Bowdoin College, and for dear old Maine. With high regard and best wishes for the Society and for its venerable President, I remain," etc.

George E. B. Jackson, Esq., being called out of town, says: —

"I should be particularly glad to join my associate members in doing honor to one for whom I have personally so much respect and regard, and I regret very much that I cannot arrange to be with you on that occasion."

The Hon. George F. Hoar, of Worcester, President of the American Antiquarian Society, writes: —

"It would give me very great pleasure to meet the eminent scholars of the Maine Historical Society, and unite in their tribute of respect to their venerable President, but I have imperative engagements that render it out of my power."

Joseph E. Eveleth, Esq., of Augusta, of the class of 1825, writes as follows: —

"I deeply regret that protracted illness will deprive me of the pleasure of being with you. I have known Mr. Bradbury for many years, and would delight, by my

presence, to bear my testimony to his great worth and distinguished character. Most heartily rejoice after his long life of usefulness to see his advanced age so fitly crowned with respect and honor."

Professor Charles H. Smith, of Brunswick, sends his sincere regrets that he cannot be present.

The Rev. George E. Ellis, D. D., President of the Massachusetts Historical Society, writes as follows: —

"I should very much enjoy the occasion, but my engagements will not permit me to be in Portland at this time, and I can only in this way express my interest in the occasion. It has given me pleasure in recent years to mark the earnest and effective work of your Society in its especial field, and to acquaint myself with its last valuable publications."

The Hon. Elihu B. Washburne, President of the Chicago Historical Society, who is spending the summer at his ancestral home, the "Norlands," in Livermore, Me., writes: —

"I regret exceedingly that the state of my health at the present time is such as to prevent me from participating in the honor which you propose to pay to your distinguished President on that occasion. A native of the State of Maine, and familiar for more than half a century with the private and public character of Mr. Bradbury, and familiar also with the invaluable services which he has rendered in the cause of the history of our beloved State, it would have afforded me great pleasure to join with you in the testimonial you propose to your President, as a slight token of the respect in which I hold his character."

From Rev. John S. Sewall, D. D., of Bangor:—

“I am exceedingly sorry that my engagements will prevent me from meeting with you on the 10th. I regret it all the more because it would be such a pleasure to join in doing honor to the guest of the occasion, whom I so cordially venerate and esteem. Please convey to him my sincere regrets.”

From Noah Woods, Esq., of Bangor:—

“I can hardly promise myself to be able to be present on the 10th of June, as I am engaged to be in Princeton, N. J., at that time. Nevertheless I heartily concur in the proposed testimonial, and hope you will have an enjoyable occasion.”

From Hon. Bion Bradbury, of Portland:—

“I regret that I am compelled to decline your kind invitation to meet with the Maine Historical Society on the 10th instant, and to join with it in the testimonial dinner to its President. Your Society honors itself in thus honoring him. After an acquaintance and friendship of half a century with your distinguished guest, I could not, even were I an enemy, point out a single stain upon his fine character. I beg you, on my behalf, to congratulate him upon this happy occasion, and to assure him of my constant esteem and affection.”

From the Hon. William Gammell, of Providence, President of the Rhode Island Historical Society:—

“It would afford me, I assure you, great pleasure to be present in behalf of the Rhode Island Historical Society on so interesting an occasion, and it is with very much regret that I find myself unable to accept the very obliging invitation I have received.”

From the Rev. William De W. Hyde, D. D., President of Bowdoin College :—

“ I had hoped to be present at the dinner given by the Society to Mr. Bradbury, but my work in connection with the close of the college year is so pressing, that I am compelled, respectfully, to forego the pleasure and privilege of joining with you in the expression of esteem and regard for one whom, in my brief connection with Bowdoin College, I have learned to respect and trust as one of the most efficient and faithful of our trustees and friends.”

From Hon. J. Hammond Trumball, LL. D., of Hartford, President of the Connecticut Historical Society :—

“ A week’s illness has prevented my earlier reply to your invitation. I sincerely regret that I cannot be present on the occasion, and that I am restricted to my privilege as a corresponding member to express my high appreciation of the services of your President, and to assure you of the pleasure it would give me to join, personally, and as the representative of our Connecticut Historical Society, in the proposed testimonial.”

From the Hon. Charles H. Bell, LL. D., of Exeter, N. H., President of the New Hampshire Historical Society :—

“ I beg to express my sincere thanks for your kind invitation, and did my engagements admit of it, I should be pleased to be present on an occasion so full of interest to join with the Society in testifying the respect which is universally felt for your venerable President, on account of his high personal character, and of the important and meritorious service which he has rendered the

community in all the various capacities in which he has been called upon to act."

From Dr. Henry Wheatland, President of the Essex Institute, Salem, Mass. : —

"I should be pleased to be with you on this interesting occasion, but regret that other engagements will prevent me from leaving home at this time."

From George F. Emery, Esq., of Portland : —

"An engagement that will take me from the city will prevent my participation in the approaching festival in honor of our President. Such honor is fitting to one who has rendered signal service to the Society, and whose devotion to our State and nation has been marked by an ability and patriotism eminently honorable and useful. His private virtue and personal worth add also to the lustre of his public life. That his remaining years may be cheered by reflections incident to such a life and such a character, is my sincere desire."

From Hon. Alpheus Felch, of Ann Arbor, ex-Governor of Michigan : —

"I greatly regret that it will be out of my power to be present at the festivities of your Society on the 10th instant. Most heartily do I join with you in tendering the testimony of high esteem to him in whose honor the compliment of the occasion is bestowed. He was my fellow student in the studies of boyhood, my associate in college-life, my companion in the United States Senate, and always my good and true friend. I rejoice that this most honorable Society of his and my native State thus pays its respects to one so worthy, and although I cannot be present in person, I join heart and soul with you on this occasion."

From Charles J. Gilman, Esq., of Brunswick :—

“ The Maine Historical Society does honor to itself in honoring the venerable President. Well may he contemplate with emotions of pleasure the part he has performed in the service of the Society. We will constantly associate his name with the great work done in the past, with the achievements of the future. I regret that I cannot be with you on this occasion.”

Rufus K. Sewall, Esq., of Wiscasset, was unable to be present, but sent the following letter :—

“ It is with unfeigned regret that, at the last moment, I find myself obliged to say there is no probability that I shall be able to participate in the festivities of this memorable occasion, so worthy of public notice by our Society.

“ You will please permit me to say further, that it is within my personal knowledge that our Society is mainly indebted to our honored President for the initiative of this Society’s field-day service, in unearthing the buried facts of the history of Maine in her ancient ruins in the places where the facts transpired.

“ At the February session of 1869, in Augusta, a vigorous discussion of the possible and probable existence of such facts, in and about the ruins of old Fort William Henry, Pemaquid, was opened by North; Willis presided. The character and signification of the oyster shell-heaps of Damariscotta, in their relation to the history of Maine, also excited interest and provoked comment. The matter was ably and earnestly debated by the venerable Dr. Woods, John A. Poor, Robert H. Gardiner, and others.

“ The practical mind of President Bradbury, whose legal training and professional instinct looked for facts in aid of a solution, proposed and carried a motion for a

special committee of the Society, to examine and report the facts as found on the earth's surface. It was a movement in aid of the truth of history, by giving voice to its registration in and under the soil of Maine. He followed up the proposition with his presence and personal supervision in detail of arrangements to secure a proper record of the results, which was a grand success.

"Since then, this method of unearthing and studying Maine history has been a recognized annual duty and service of the Maine Historical Society.

"It was indeed a new departure, the value and appreciation of which as a method of historical science will grow as we reach a full, fair, and just solution of the problems of New England history as related to Maine, and yet to be solved.

"*Et forsitan hæc olim meminisse juvabit.*" With Virgil, Maine historians may yet take up the refrain."

From Prentice C. Manning, Esq., of Portland:—

"Circumstances beyond my control prevent me from uniting with you this evening in doing honor to our venerated President.

"Trusting that the occasion may be a pleasant one, and that a kind Providence may grant yet many more years to a life which has been so honorable and useful to our Society, the State, and the nation, I have the honor to be," etc.

From Hon. Lucilius A. Emery, of Ellsworth:—

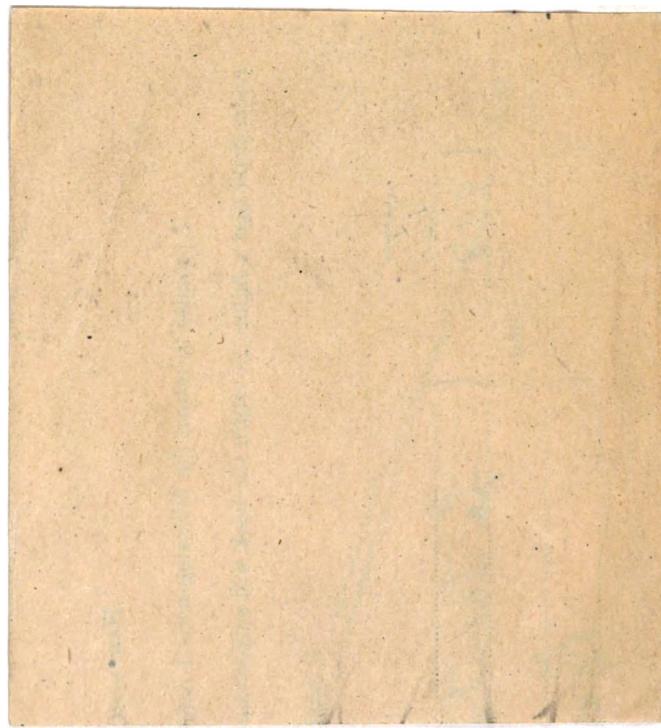
"I exceedingly regret my inability to be present at the dinner. The compliment is due to him, and I feel remiss that I did not better arrange affairs. When a man has, for so many years, been of such service to the State and to its history, he deserves the expression of

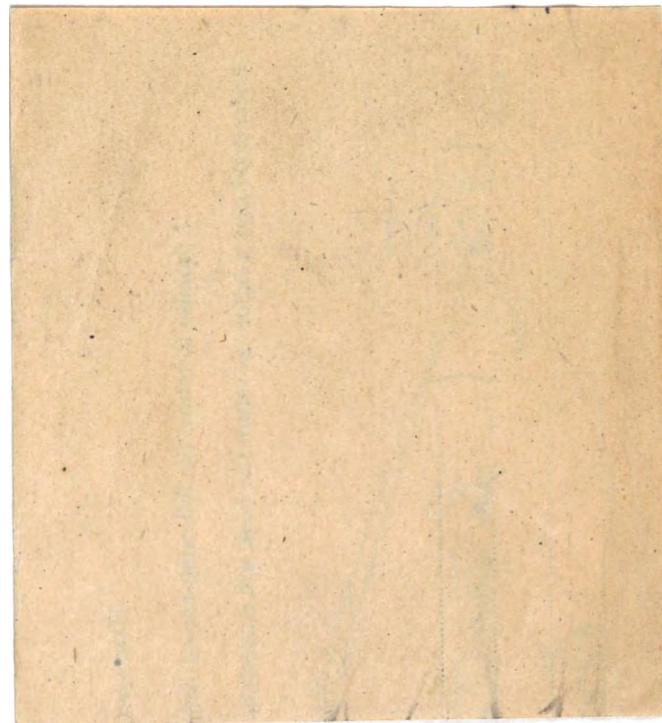
our appreciation. I write to testify my regard for our distinguished guest, and my appreciation of his life and character."

From the Rev. Samuel F. Dike, D. D., of Bath, Me. : —

" I regret exceedingly not to have had the opportunity of testifying in person my good will and kind feelings to Mr. Bradbury. It would have given me great pleasure to have been present at the dinner had it not been ordered otherwise. I have been many years associated with Mr. Bradbury on committees and various official positions, and an intimate friendship has grown up between us. I have learned to honor and highly esteem him as a man and a Christian gentleman. Of such associates as Dr. Woods, Dr. Packard, Judge Barrows, Mr. Bradbury, and other members of the Society, I have many interesting memories. Please make my kindest regards to him, as well as the distinguished consideration with which I have ever held him."

Regrets were also received from William Hale, Esq., Dover, N. H. ; Professor G. T. Little, Brunswick ; Professor E. W. Hall, Waterville ; Rev. A. F. Chase, Bucksport ; Rev. Henry O. Thayer, Woolwich ; H. K. Morrell, Esq., Gardiner ; Samuel D. Bailey, Esq., Bath ; General J. P. Cilley, Rockland ; Joshua L. Douglas, Esq., Bath ; William R. Smith, Esq., of Augusta ; Hon. William L. Putnam, Fabius M. Ray, Esq., Wm. H. Smith, Esq., and Alexander W. Longfellow, Esq., of Portland.





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